

Board Member Code of Ethics

Basic Principals and Procedures

School Boards in Colorado accept the obligation to operate public schools in accordance with the fundamental principles and standards of school management, which principles include but are not limited to the following:

1. Boards of Education formulate written policy for the administration of schools to be reviewed regularly and revised as necessary.
2. Boards of Education exercise legislative, policy making, planning, and appraising functions and delegate administrative functions in the operation of schools.
3. Boards of Education recognize their especially critical responsibility for selecting the superintendent. The Board will define the superintendent's responsibilities, help formulate his/her goals, and evaluate his//her performance regularly, without directly engaging in the administrative process.
4. Boards of Education accept and encourage a variety of opinions from and communication with all parts of the community.
5. Boards of Education make public relevant institutional information in order to promote communication and understanding between the school system and the community.
6. Boards of Education act on legislative and policy-making matters only after examining all pertinent facts and considering the superintendent's recommendations.
7. Boards of Education conduct their meetings with planned and published agendas.
8. Boards of Education encourage and promote professional growth of school staff so that quality of instruction services may be continually improved.
9. Boards of Education establish and maintain procedural steps for resolving complaints and criticisms of school affairs.

10. Boards of Education act only through public meetings and individual Board members have no authority to bind the Board.

Ethical Standards

Maximum results as members of Boards of Education will be achieved only if high ethical standards of conduct are maintained in all personal business, and public activities. Beginning with the universally accepted precept of treating others, individually or in groups, as everyone would like to be treated, more specific standards include but are not limited to the following:

1. Ethical Standards for All Individual Members of the Board of Education:
 - a. Remember that the first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of all students attending the public schools.
 - b. Obey the laws of Colorado and the United States.
 - c. Respect the confidentiality of privileged information.
 - d. Recognize that an individual board member has not authority to speak or act for the entire board.
 - e. Work with other members to establish effective board policies.
 - f. Delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent and staff.
 - g. Encourage ongoing communication among board members, the board, students, staff and the community.
 - h. Make every effort to attend all board meetings as well as becoming informed concerning the issues to be considered at each meeting.
 - i. Render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment rather than succumbing to the influence of individuals or special interest groups.
 - j. Improve boardmanship by studying educational issues and by participating in in-service programs.

- k. Support the employment of staff members based on qualifications and not as a result of influence.
- l. Cooperate with other board members and administrators to establish a system of regular and impartial evaluations of staff.
- m. Avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof.
- n. Refrain from using the board position for benefit of myself, family members, or business associates.
- o. Express personal opinions but, once the board has acted, accept the will of the majority.

2. Group Ethics for the board of Education:

- a. Seek assurances of the availability of administrative and teaching personnel prior to offering them contracts.
- b. Initiate inquires for the prospective, specific certified and non-certified employees through channels that are available to everyone qualified.
- c. Evaluate personnel objectively for own purposes
- d. Encourage meetings and association with other school boards nearby, regionally, statewide and nationally to discuss and advance the cause of maintaining and improving public educations.
- e. Recognize, although the primary obligation is to maintain and improve the quality of education in the local district, a substantial duty in the board sense is to be concerned for the improvement of the quality of education at all levels of society and refrain from actions locally that would substantially interfere or injure the program of education elsewhere.

Source: National Ed Policy Network for the NSBA

Ohio School Boards Association

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